

ANN MARIA MEINHOFFER.

JANUARY 27, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 8942.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8942) to pension Ann Maria Meinhoefer, having carefully considered the facts in the case, respectfully report:

The beneficiary named in the bill is the widow of Louis Meinhofer, who enlisted September 6, 1864, as a private in Company B, Forty-first New York Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged June 21, 1865. He died October 15, 1873, leaving claimant and two children, one of whom was under 16 years of age at the time.

Claimant applied for a pension September 19, 1891. It seems that she was married in Germany to one Michael Heckel, and they came to this country in 1854. During the same year her husband went West, accompanied by her brother, and died while away. In 1857 she married the soldier, bore him children, lived with him as his wife up to the date of his death, and was always treated as such by their neighbors. She can furnish no evidence of Heckel's death except her own statement, her brother, who was with him when he died, having long since departed this life. Nor can she furnish any evidence, except her own statement, that the soldier was not married prior to his marriage to her in 1857.

Mrs. Meinhofer is now 77 years of age, very feeble, and without property of any kind whatever. No one is pensioned on account of the soldier's service.

Forty-three years having elapsed since her first husband was last heard of, and forty since her marriage to the soldier, we think it is safe to presume that the first is dead and that the second had no other wife.

The case is a very meritorious one, and your committee respectfully recommend the passage of the bill, with the following amendments:

In line 4, after the word "place," strike out the balance of the bill, and add: "upon the pension roll, subject otherwise to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of Ann Maria Meinhofer, widow of Louis Meinhofer, late a private in Company B, Forty-first New York Infantry, and pay her a pension of twelve dollars per month."

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting a pension to Ann Maria Meinhofer."